

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 /016 W  
-----069565 160131Z /13

R 151450Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8087  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3497

FOR A/SY/PRS/TAG AND A/SY/OPS/FO FROM RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC, SF  
SUBJECT: PROTECTIVE SECURITY: RECENT THREATS IN DURBAN

REF: A) STATE 159153 (NOTAL), B) DURBAN 0442

1. FIRST INCIDENT REFERRED TO REFTEL (B) WAS ANONYMOUS  
TELEPHONE CALL TO AMERICAN OFFICER, AMCONGEN, DURBAN, BY  
FEMALE (ASSUME WHITE NATIVE AFRIKAANS SPEAKER) CLAIMING TO  
BE MERCHANT WHOSE SALES OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS WERE SUFFERING  
DUE TO "BOYCOTT" OF U.S. PRODUCTS. CALLER RELATED THAT BOYCOTT  
RESULTING FROM RECENT "CITIZEN" NEWSPAPER SERIES ENTITLED  
"SECRET U.S. WAR AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA". INCIDENT REPORTED  
TO SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE (SAP). INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION BY  
POST REGARDING POTENTIAL IDENTIFIABLE COMMENTS MADE BY  
CALLER REVEALED NO FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO IDENTITY.

2. SECOND INCIDENT WAS LETTER ADDRESSED TO CONSUL GENERAL  
FARBER, DURBAN, WITH THREATENING OVERTONES. LETTER WRITTEN  
IN FRENCH SIGNED A. SHUTA PYTHMAGORAS, WITH JOHANNESBURG  
ADDRESS. PYTHMAGORAS BELIEVED TO BE OF GREEK EXTRACTION,  
IS REGULAR CRANK LETTER WRITER TO EMBASSY. LETTER NOT  
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REFERRED TO POLICE.

3. SAP APPEARS RESPONSIVE TO THESE MATTERS AND PROVIDES  
INVESTIGATIVE RESULTS ONLY IF SOMETHING OF SUBSTANCE DEVELOPED,  
AND IF CONSIDERED IN THEIR INTEREST TO DO SO, E.G. PRETORIA  
0550 REGARDING THREATENING CABLE RECEIVED BY USUN AMBASSADOR  
YOUNG.

4. RSO COMMENT: (A) ELEMENT OF SAP, SECURITY POLICE, WITH WHOM RSO MAINTAINS LIAISON FOR PROTECTIVE MATTERS, HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE, COUNTER-INSURGENCY, RIOT CONTROL AND IS PARA-MILITARY ORGANIZATION. IN SOCIETY SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA WHERE REPRESSION IS PRO-NOUNCED AND VISIBLE, SECURITY POLICE BECOME "POINT MEN" AS ELEMENT OF FORCE IS CARRYING OUT SAG INTERNAL SECURITY POLICIES. LIAISON RELATION WITH SAP, INCLUDING SECURITY POLICE, REMAINS CIVIL, CORRECT, NOMINALLY RESPONSIVE, AND IN OUR PROTECTIVE INTEREST. RSO OBSERVATION IS THAT SECURITY POLICE APPEAR RELATIVELY EFFICIENT AND WELL-MOTIVATED TOWARDS THEIR MANDATED INTERNAL SECURITY TASKS. RSO FURTHER OF OPINION THAT SAG THROUGH SAP FULLY COGNIZANT THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH REGARD TO PROTECTION OUR PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES.

(B) RSO FEELS THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF PERSONNEL OR THEIR DEPENDENTS WANDERING INTO AREA OF SPORADIC STRIFE THAT NO IMMEDIATE THREAT POSED TO OUR FACILITIES OR PERSONNEL FROM PRESENT SPORADIC CIVIL DISTURBANCES WHICH FOR ONCE APPEAR NOT TO CONTAIN ANY ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES. ON OTHER HAND, INCREASING CONCENTRATION IN MEDIA OF ALLEGED ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY ON PART USG CANNOT BUT FAIL TO BRING OUT MOST BASE FEELINGS WITHIN CERTAIN SECTORS OF WHITES WHO SEE USG AS MOST DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT THEY VIEW AS NEGATIVE

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INFLUENCES AFFECTING THEIR SOCIETY, LIFESTYLE AND SECURITY. THE LUNATIC FRINGE IN ANY SOCIETY USUALLY IS THE FIRST TO RESPOND TO PROPOGANDA CAMPAIGN OF THIS NATURE. IT HAS NOT MANIFESTED ITSELF IN VIOLENCE AGAINST USG INTERESTS HERE.

(C) USIS JOHANNESBURG AND ITS SUBORDINATE READING ROOM IN SOWETO MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY IN THE MEDIA ALLUDING TO CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES HOSTILE TO THE INTEREST OF SOUTH AFRICA TAKING PLACE WITHIN THOSE FACILITIES. SOME OF OUR AMERICAN AND FSL PERSONNEL ARE RELATIVELY VISIBLE IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSIDERED "SUBVERSIVE OR QUESTIONABLE" BY THE SAG. WE ASSUME SOME DEGREE SAP SURVEILLANCE OF BOTH OUR PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES, AND ALSO ASSUME THIS SURVEILLANCE IS NOT PRIMARILY TO ASSURE OUR SAFETY. RSO FEELS MOST LIKELY THREAT OF INCIDENT DIRECTED AGAINST OFFICIAL AMERICAN ENTITY IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL COME FROM INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUP "REDNECK" WHITE(S).

5. RSO RECOMMENDS THAT SY/TAG IMPROVE ITS DATA BANK ON PROTECTIVE CONCERNS RELATIVE TO SOUTH AFRICA BY BRIEFINGS FROM DESK, INR AND FROM WITHIN COMMUNITY INCLUDING USIS AND FBIS PRESS SUMMARIES. OUR CURRENT PROTECTIVE PROGRAMS ARE LOW-

KEY, LOW-PROFILE CONFINED MAINLY TO IMPROVED HARDENED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT FOUR DIPLOMATIC/CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS; TECHNICAL SCREENING MAIL AND PACKAGES AT OFFICIAL OFFICES; AND OCCASIONAL CLOSE SUPPORT PROTECTION OF COM/DCM AT HIGHLY VISIBLE PUBLIC FUNCTIONS SUCH AS RECENT FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS. WE FEEL THIS RESPONSE CURRENTLY IS APPROPRIATE TO THE THREAT AS WE RECOGNIZE IT. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT FOR ANY SHIFT IN THE REAL OR EVALUATED THREAT. WE CONTINUE TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO QUIETLY UPGRADE OUR PROTECTIVE SECURITY PROGRAM IN BOTH TECHNICAL GADGETRY AND PERSONNEL ORIENTATION AND TRAINING.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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